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Application No. 10/693,903
Docket No. 031948-3REMARKS

The above amendment with the following remarks is submitted to be fully responsive to the Office Action of November 27, 2006. Reconsideration of this application in light of the amendment and the allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14 were pending in the present application prior to the above amendment. In response to the Office Action, claim 1 is canceled, claims 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 13, and 14 are amended, and claims 15-21 are added. Therefore, claims 2-21 are now pending in the present application and are believed to be in proper condition for allowance.

Initially, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation, the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 11-14 if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Referring now to the Office Action, claims 1-5 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pan (U.S. Patent No. 6,348,823). Claims 6, 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pan in view of Kuwata (U.S. Patent No. 6,959,061). Claim 7 is also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pan in view of Kuwata.

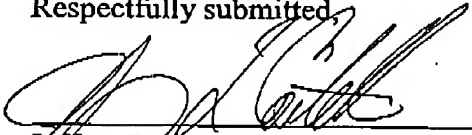
As amended, claims 13 and 14 contain all limitations of the base claim in independent form. The Examiner has previously indicated that claims 13 and 14 are allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 2-12 depend from independent claim 13 and new claims 15-21 depend from independent claim 14. Because claims 13 and 14 contain allowable subject matter, Applicants believe that dependent claims 2-12 and 15-21 are also allowable.

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In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. However, if any issue remains after considering this response, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned to expedite the prosecution and work out any such issue by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,


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